Govenrment of India and TATAs with regard to the use of surplus land available with VSNL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a new entity called 'hemisphere' has been created to use surplus land available with VSNL; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A shell Company under the name of 'Hemisphere Properties India Limited' has been created by the Strategic Partner for management of surplus land after its demerger. They have incorporated the company with an authorized capital of Rs. 25 lacs, paid capital of Rs. 5 lacs and have appointed three Directors on its Board.

Suggestion/inputs from COAI

3228. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cellular Operators Association of India categorically denied the reports that they are opposing "India One Tariff Plan" proposed by the Ministry;

(b) if so, whether the Government can think of setting up of an implementation Committee to facilitate the process of "India One Tariff Plan" smoothly and expeditiously;

(c) whether Government sought any inputs from the Cellular Operators Association of India as to how the facility could be introduced and whether Government have received any suggestions/inputs from COAI on "India One Tariff Plan";

(d) if so, the details thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (d) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) in its letter dated 23rd August 2005 has welcomed the initiatives of the Government to examine the possibility of offering more affordable services to Indian consumers by considering the India One Tariff for telecom.

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has submitted various suggestions/inputs to the Government which *inter-alia* include issues relating to off-net calls, on-net calls, inter-circle long distance tariffs, high carriage charge, mobile termination charge, revenue sharing regime for Access Deficit Charge, desirability to merge Access Deficit Charge with Universal Service Obligation Fund, reduction in licence fee to 6% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), reduction in spectrum usage charges and setting up a small committee comprising of representatives from Department of Telecom and concerned stakeholders such as Cellular Operators Association of India, Association of Unified Telecom Operators Association of India, Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. So far, no decision has been taken to set up implementation Committee.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) to (d) above.

Congestion at Inter-Connection Level

3229. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently brought out a Network Congestion Report revealing an alarming degree of congestion between the operators in several cities;

(b) whether the report has found that 193 locations had congestion level of 10 per cent at points of interconnection;

(c) whether the regulator's (TRAI) benchmark for maximum congestion at interconnection level is under 0.5 per cent; and

(d) whether the congestion at the interconnection level at worst affected locations is at 40 per cent or more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per Quality of Service Regulation for Basic and Cellular Mobile Services, 2005, notified on 8th July, 2005, the benchmark for Point of Interconnection (PoI) congestion is less than 0.5%.

(d) Yes, Sir.